suggestions made by the official group to check the growing corruption in C. B. E. C; and

(c) what action has been taken proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No Sir, No official group has been set up, as on such need has been felt. All complaints relating to corruption and public grievances are attended to by the Central Board of Excise and Customs promptly.

(b) and (c) do not arise.

Allocation of Special Drawing Rights

511. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IMF has suggested to Government to take early steps to lighten bank liquidity and to ensure unification of its dual, exchange rate regime;

(b) if so, what are the details of the suggestions made by the IMF and whether Government have taken any decision thereon;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the IMF management is suppoprting a new allocation of Special Drawing Rights. and

(d) if so, what are the grounds therefor stating the reaction of Government on the matter as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) As a part of its starategy of macroeconomic stabilisation and reform, tho Government has taken steps to give a boost to industrial production and exports. In this context, steps have been taken to make available larger bank credit to the private sector (through reduction in SLR, lending rates etc.) and also to unify the exchange rate (announced in Budget for 1993-94). The strategy of the Govt. was supported by the IMF with financial assistance under the stand-by arrangement which concluded in June, 1993. Letters written by the Finance Minister to the Managing Director of IMF dated August 27, 1991 and June 2, 1992 have already been placed on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The IMF management is considering a fresh allocation of SDR roughly of the order of SDR 36 billion due to the increased global requirement arising out of integration of formerly Centrally Planned Economies into the World trading system. India has supported the management's proposal.

Appointments on Compassionate grounds in State Bank of India

512. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the rules of the Associate Banks of State Bank of India for making appointments on humanitarian/compassionate grounds, the details thereof;

(b) the number of voluntarily retired employees who have been reappointed by the State Bank of Indore during 1988 to 1991 and 1992 till date, the details year-wise;

(c) whether the rules were followed by the Bank Management, if not the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that certain benefits which are given to the re-employed as a fresh candidates, are not applicable to a fresh employee in the Bank;

(e) if so, the reasons for giving such benefits which are given in the cases who are "re-instated employees" only;

(f) whether any action has been taken against those officers who had violated rules; if not reasons therefor;

(g) the number of representation that have been received from the

employees as well as from the MPs by the Ministry/Bank during the last three years till date; and

(h) whether these letters have been inquired into, if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (h) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

513. *(Transferred to 9th December, 1993.)*

Merger of New Bank of India with Punjab National Bank ..

514. SHRI MANMOHAN MATHUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that New Bank of India has been merged with the Punjab National Bank, if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the seniority of the employees of the New Bank of India has been affected by this merger;

(c) whether it is a fact that without framing any transfer policy the employees of the New Bank of India have been posted to far off places from their residences, and the juniors who were working in Punjab National Bank have been retained in Delhi;

(d) if so, the number of employees who have joined their duties on transfer;

(e) what are the reasons for this discrimination; and

(f) whether the employees of the New Bank of India have submitted a representation to Government, if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) Owing to continuous deterioration in the financial position of the erstwhile New Bank of India over the past several years, the Government amalagamated it with Punjab National Bank on 4th September, 1993. The Scheme relating to inter-se seniority of the officers and other employees of erstwhile New Bank of India vis-a-vis the officers and other employees of Punjab National Bank has not yet been notified.

(c) to (f) On account of the amalgamation, several structural changes had to be effected, which included closure of the Head Office and several Regional Offices of the erstwhile New Bank of India. This has necessarily rendered a substantial workforce of officers and other employees surplus at various stations, especially at Delhi where the Head Office and Regional Office of erstwhile New Bank of India were located. In order to ensure optimum utilisation of these officers and other employees the Punjab National Bank has drawn up guidelines for their transfer/redeployment. The guidelines envisage minimum inconvenience possible by transferring the desired staff within the same station, within the same zone or within the same linguistic area etc. depending upon their length of service. The guidelines do not envisage transfer of the female staff, physically handicapped employees and those on the verge of retirement. As per information furnished by Punjab National Bank, 400 employees have joined their duties on transfer outside the headquarters.

Representations have been received by the Government opposing the transfers effected by Punjab National Bank. Personnel matters however are to be decided by the concerned bank and Government therefore does not propose to intervene in any way.